בס"ד

 **Middah Master Lesson 1
אַחֲוָה – Achava (Brotherhood, belonging, friendship)**

## Case 1

The bell rang, and the boys hurried back into class, still catching their breath from recess. Rebbi clapped his hands. “Boys, we’re switching seats today!” Moshe’s stomach sank when he saw his name on the chart. His new seat was next to Dovid — the quiet new boy who had just moved from another city. Moshe sat down with a sigh and thought to himself, *Oh no. I liked my old partner. We had our jokes and our routine. This is going to be boring.*

Moshe glanced at Dovid. His desk was bare, his eyes moving back and forth like he wasn’t sure where to look, and his hands stayed folded tight. Moshe felt pulled in two directions. Part of him thought, *Stay quiet. Why bother?* But another part whispered, *He doesn’t know anyone. What if he feels alone?* Moshe now had to choose: would he keep to himself, or would he reach out and show Achava?

Solve it: What should Moshe do?

* A) Greet Dovid warmly and offer to share a chumash with him if needed.
* B) Keep quiet and focus only on his own work.
* C) Complain to Rebbi that he doesn’t like the new seat assignment.

## Case 2

The playground buzzed with shouts. “I pick Shimon!” “Yehuda’s on my team!” The teams were almost full, boys crowding around and pointing. Yisrael bounced his ball, waiting. Then he noticed Levi standing alone by the fence, tapping a ball against the wall. He wasn’t asking to join, but his tight smile gave him away. Yesterday Levi had spent all recess the same way, left out. Yisrael dribbled harder, his mind racing.

The last spot was about to be taken. If Yisrael called Levi now, some boys would roll their eyes — *Why’d you pick him?* he could already hear them saying. But if he stayed quiet, Levi would once again watch from the sidelines. Yisrael felt the pressure: protect his own image, or reach out and give Levi a place to belong?

Solve it: What should Yisrael do?

* A) Stay quiet and let the game start without Levi.
* B) Call Levi over and say, “Come on, we need you on our team.”
* C) Suggest to the captains that Levi should be added so no one is left out.